

Sunday, September 18, 2011
4:37 PM

Notes on Fursenko and Naftali, One Hell of a Gamble

| 211: Sov generals seemed to think that they could use tac nucs to “complicate” a US landing on Cuba, without war expanding to two-sided nuclear exchange or all-out war! (also, 207)

[As a deterrent, this could have worked; but K made no effort to use it as a deterrent, by revealing it! When did he propose to do this, if ever?! But as a war-fighting device...Jesus Christ!

| 212: Ministry of Defense drafted an order delegating decision to Pliyev to use tac nucs “in the event that communications to Moscow were cut and a US-led invasion had begun. The order required two signatures. Malinovsky’s deputy, Marsh Zakharov signed in his capacity as army chief of staff, but Malinovsky did not....Khrushchev did not want to lose control over the decision to use nuclear weapons. The document was to sit unsigned in the files until events in Cuba warranted a change.” [SO—NO DELEGATION?] [NO: Gribkov explains that Malinovsky simply didn’t want to put this in writing; the oral delegation from K remained in force, until Oct. 22.]

Sept. 7—K signs off on order to send nuc warheads.

after JFK warning

Each side tries to deter the other: without success. On the contrary, the US “deterrent” warnings lead to **speeding up** the process, to present US with a fait accompli before and after the November election. (211): Clearly, K hoped (as I inferred) that JFK would not take action before November 5 (when the deployments would be complete: the IRBM missiles would have arrived), given his not announcing the deployments before the elections. (Didn’t he notice that Keating was already announcing leaks of arrival of SU bases, August 31, and that JFK had committed himself on Sept. 4? So K WAS “making trouble” for JFK before the election; a leak to Keating was likely...) [Crazy expectation by K in May-September, then crazy response in September—unless he had taken other steps to deter...which were available, but he didn’t use them!] *out (o)*

C-I had just proved impossible for US to hide, as a covert op. Now SU was deploying missiles to Cuba as a covert op! (With a good deal of success! More than JFK in C-I. Not unlike Barbarossa: JFK’s advisors just couldn’t believe K would “be a fool.”) K cancels sub deployment and base because it would be more difficult to hide.

214 Did US ever consider that SU diesel subs would carry a nuclear-tipped torpedo? (Four of them had one each).

Assass was too “sensitive” in 1962 for the Special Group to discuss! McCone had moral objections! 201

Deterrence: